

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: June 22, 1988

Region II  
Response and Prevention Branch  
Edison, New Jersey 08837

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TAT

(201) 548-8730 - Commercial and FTS  
24 Hour Emergency

POLREP NO.: Thirty-three (33)  
INCIDENT NAME: Arkansas Chemical Company  
SITE/SPILL NO.: T9  
POLLUTANT: Textile chemicals and intermediates  
CLASSIFICATION: Major  
SOURCE: Abandoned chemical facility  
LOCATION: Newark, New Jersey  
AMOUNT: 20,000 containers of various chemicals,  
1500 drums (600 empty), 87 indoor and  
outdoor tanks of which less than ten  
hold oil, acid, and unknowns.  
WATER BODY: None

1. SITUATION:

A. The Arkansas Chemical Company produced textile and other specialty chemicals at this site until it was abandoned in 1983. Abandoned on this site are a two-story office/laboratory building (Bldg. 25/30), a machine shop (Bldg. 26), a small chemical processing building (Bldg. 27), a large four-story chemical process building (Bldg. 28), boiler room/tank house (Bldg. 16/16B), a storage building (Bldg. 24), and two sheds (S1 & S2). About 1500 drums and 20,000 small containers of chemicals exist in these buildings. In addition, there are approximately 17 aboveground storage tanks and 70 process tanks/reaction vessels.

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2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. Listed below are the major waste streams of hazardous materials classified on-site and their current status. An estimated 45,738 gallons of material remain on-site.

- 1) Base/Neutral and Oxidizer Liquids, Oxidizer and Reactive Solids (28% of total waste streams) 9,000 gallons, 33 gallons, 5 gallons and 3 gallons respectively are mixed together in a bulking chamber stored behind building 28. For safety purposes the opening to this chamber was sealed and padlocked.
- 2) Flammable and Organic Liquids (13% of total waste streams) 2,745 gallons and 3,100 gallons respectively are mixed together in a bulking chamber behind building 28B. As an added measure of security, approximately 5,000 gallons of this material was pumped into a holding pool inside of building 28 on January 20, 1988. Due to settling, approximately 1,000 gallons of material had solidified which prohibited complete transfer. Currently, the solid material is stored in the sealed bulking chamber.
- 3) Acid Liquids (7% of total waste streams) 3,200 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.
- 4) Cyanide Liquids (<1% of total waste streams) 44 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.
- 5) Peroxide Liquids and Solids (2% of total waste streams) 650 gallons and 10 gallons respectively of these materials are bulked together in overpack drums inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.
- 6) Halogenated Organic Liquids (1% of total waste streams) 583 gallons of this material are staged in overpack drums inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.
- 7) Base/Neutral Solids (33% of total waste streams) 15,000 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has indicated that this material qualifies for landfill disposal.

8) Acid Solids (9% of total waste streams) 4,200 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has indicated that the pH needs to be lowered prior to disposal.

9) Cyanide Solids (<1% of total waste streams) 90 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.

10) Organic and Flammable Solids (7% of total waste streams) 2,500 gallons and 575 gallons respectively have been bulked together in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.

B. Aside from the main waste streams yet to be disposed of, the following material will require removal from site and appropriate disposal:

1) The disposal of nearly 20,000 laboratory reagent bottles is complete with the exception of 9 specific wastes. These wastes include explosives, mercury compounds and PCB's. Alternate disposal methods for these items are under way.

2) Three gas cylinders, two of which are unknown, remain onsite. Disposal via manufacturer identification is under way.

3) All asbestos material has been stabilized in place and awaits final mitigation.

4) Nearly 600 empty drums are staged inside building 24 awaiting cleaning and shredding.

C. On May 5, 1988, and June 17, 1988, EPA and TAT visited the site to perform routine stability checks.

D. On June 9, 1988, EPA and TAT visited the site to perform an emergency site stability check after security reported that a break-in had occurred. EPA and TAT investigated the break-in to building 26 and verified that no damage had been done. The door which had been broken into was resecured prior to EPA and TAT departing the site.

E. On June 8, 1988, a \$2 million exemption letter was signed by the Regional Administrator. The letter requests an additional \$1,586,000, of which \$1,131,000 is for mitigation contracting. This will raise the total site ceiling to \$3,554,000, of which \$2,731,000 is for mitigation contracting. The signed exemption letter is currently in

headquarters awaiting final approval.

3. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. 24 hour site security will be maintained until the current funding expires. At that time it will either be resumed until completion of site work or terminated due to budgetary constraints.

B. EPA and TAT will make periodic on-site inspections to ensure stability of hazardous wastes remaining on site.

4. FINANCIAL STATUS

A. Total Project Ceiling Authorized	\$1,966,009
B. Mitigation Contract Ceiling	\$1,598,009
C. Expenditures for Mitigation Contracts	
1.a Amount Obligated to ERCS contractor for Delivery Order #6893-02-073 and #7445-02-006 (DCNs KCS - 361,629,633,710,730, KE - 0001, 0027, 0035, 0044, 0045) as of June 22, 1988	\$1,565,380
1.b Amount de-obligated due to contract rollover	\$ 1,991
1.c Total amount obligated to date	\$1,563,389
1.d Estimated mitigation expenditures as of June 22, 1988	\$1,562,000
1.e Balance Remaining	\$ 1,389
D. Unobligated Balance Remaining	\$ 32,629
E. Other Extramural Costs as of June 22, 1988	
1.a TAT Salary/Travel (estimated)	\$ 103,766
1.b Analytical Costs	\$ 6,628
F. Intramural Costs as of June 22, 1988	
1.a EPA (Estimated Direct and Indirect)	\$ 75,245
G. Total Expenditures	\$1,747,639
Percent of Total Project Ceiling	88.9%
Percent of \$2 Million	87.4%

FURTHER  
POLREPS  
FINAL POLREP \_\_\_\_\_ FORTHCOMING ☒ SUBMITTED BY Mark P. Pane  
Mark P. Pane, OSC  
Response and  
Prevention Branch

DATE OF RELEASE: JUNE 23, 1988